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Volume 13, Number 22

MRS. CLINTON: HELPING SINGLE PARENTS KEY WELFARE REFORM

LITTLE ROCK — Helping poor, single parents return to school and get good jobs will help ease the difficulties of welfare reform, Hillary Rodham Clinton said during a one-day visit to Arkansas.

The first lady began her visit Tuesday touring an area ravaged by the March 1 tornadoes that killed 25 and damaged hundreds of homes. Later she spoke at a fund-raising dinner for the Arkansas Single-Parent Scholarship Fund, a grassroots effort to help low-income single parents get college diplomas.

"With the president signing welfare reform, we no longer have a safety net," she told about 200 diners at a downtown Little Rock hotel. "We have a big challenge in front of us."

During her speech, Mrs. Clinton asked that people unite not just in times of disasters, but to help Americans struggling each day.

"We can't lose the face of poverty in Arkansas," because there is so much around us," she said, citing her visit to Saline County earlier in the day to view tornado damage.

CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY FOUND SHOT TO DEATH

DREW, MS (AP) — A civil rights attorney who was the second black to attend the University of Mississippi was found shot to death at his home.

Cleve McDowell, 56, was found dead in an upstairs bathroom last early Thursday after relatives called police to say the door to his apartment was open and his car missing. Police continued to look for McDowell's Cadillac.

Investigators refused to discuss a motive or other details after Circuit Judge Gray Evans issued a subpoenaing a gag order on investigators prohibiting them from talking about the case. Calls to the office to determine who requested the order and why have gone unanswered.

McDowell had been a public defender in Southwest County for three decades. He was part of a group of black leaders organizing to pressure district attorneys and revive interest in many never-prosecuted cases in which blacks were killed for doing civil rights work.

He entered the University of Mississippi Law School in 1963, a year after James Meredith became the first black to enroll at the university. He carried a gun later expelled for carrying a gun on campus.

McDowell said he did not feel safe walking to class. When Meredith enrolled at the school, riots broke out and two people were killed.

McDowell received his law degree from Texas Southern University in Houston and returned to Mississippi to practice.

During the 1980s, McDowell was executive field director of the Mississippi chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

RETIRED TEXACO EXECUTIVE INDICTED; ATTORNEY PROMISES INNOCENT PLEA

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — A former Texaco executive who secretly tape-recorded himself and his colleagues planning to destroy evidence in a race-discrimination case has been charged with obstruction of justice.

Prosecutors indicted Richard Lundwall, apparently after failing to persuade him to testify against other company officials. The attorney said Lundwall will plead innocent.

Though Texaco has punished four current and former executives, Lundwall is the only one with criminal charges against him. The obstruction charge carries a potential 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Lundwall's lawyers said negotiations broke down because Lundwall was allowed to see a report on an investigation commissioned by Texaco. "It's time for the federal government to pick on someone its own size," Texaco said. Lundwall's attorney, Christopher Riley, "The moral of this case, if you're prepared to offend a large corporation the government will see you punished for it."



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MARCH 19-MARCH 25, 1997

MURDER CHARGE FILED IN COSBY SLAYING; TEEN COULD FACE DEATH

By Constance Sommer
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The young Russian immigrant who fled the death penalty if convicted of killing the son of one of the United States' most popular comedians was an above-average student who struggled to fit in, aspired to be a gang member and spent time in a juvenile

camp, classmates and school officials said.

"We just thought he was a little white boy who wanted to be a 'scholar' (gang member)," said Olga Medina, 18, a former classmate at Los Alamitos High School. "He was a wannabe, he wanted to be a gang member."

Mikhail Markhashev, 18, was charged with murder Friday for the slaying of Ennis Cosby, 27, the only son of entertainer Bill Cosby. Markhashev was also

charged with attempted robbery and use of a firearm during commission of a crime.

He did not enter a plea and will be held without bail until his next court appearance March 28.

Bill Cosby's only comment, as he entered his New York City apartment on Friday, "Jurisprudence." It was his first public comment since a family statement was issued after the arrest.

Police say Markhashev randomly

chose Cosby for a robbery attempt, shooting him as he was changing a flat tire near a freeway off-ramp Jan. 16. Police say they have recovered the gun used in the slaying and a cap worn by the killer.

The allegation that Cosby was killed during an attempted robbery is a so-called "special circumstance" that, if upheld at trial, could allow

See MURDER CHARGES FILED/page 5

Adeigbola and Soulljah speak on the image of women

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEW BRUNSWICK — They talked about a range of issues from the portrayal of women in music to the woman's role in family and society at a forum held on March 11 at Rutgers University's Douglass College.

The forum, titled "Black Women Making History," was organized by 100 Black of Rutgers University and featured poet/activist Yasmine Adeigbola of Black Nis F.O.R.C.E. and rapper/producer Sister Soulljah.

It was a learning experience for all those who attended. Adeigbola and Soulljah shared their input on classism, racism, sisterhood, family, and urged women to become politically involved. The two college-educated women serve as an opposing image to the negative images of black women that have taken center stage recently with the rise of Lil' Kim and Foxy Brown.



Yasmine Adeigbola of Black Nis F.O.R.C.E. and Rapper/producer Sister Soulljah

The largely centered around the two female rappers whose risqué images and questionable lyrics propelled them into stardom.

Many black women, are offended by them and it led to the question of

how they are and want to be perceived.

Tinaya WS moderated the forum. She initiated the discussion with a question about what she saw as women shying away from engaging in

political or revolutionary action, choosing instead to participate in unconstructive and degrading behavior, personified by Lil' Kim and Foxy Brown.

Adeigbola said one of the reasons that may be it because some women simply find it to be unappealing. "It's not cute enough, there's a certain level of commitment that you have to have...and that's not where the majority is right now," she said, noting that materialism wins out in that battle far too often.

Adeigbola is also disturbed by the women who buy into and try to emulate the personas, emphasizing that it is incumbent among progressive-minded black women to make appeals for positive images.

Soulljah's remarks were well-received in family, pointing out that an adult's behavior is a reflection of how they were raised, and that a young

See SOULLJAH'S REMARKS/page 10

Desegregation Judge blasts failure to institute educational mandate after 43 years

Federal Judge Robert L. Carter
Initiates First Of Eight Lecture Series
At International Civil Rights Center
And Museum Of North Carolina A&T

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Federal Judge Robert L. Carter, former deputy to the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall when both worked for the NAACP, declared recently that the failure to assure a quality education for minority students is "the primary, unfinished task which must be completed."

Even the new historic Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954 that outlawed segregation in public schools did not give minority students equal access to equal education, he said.

Judge Carter, who argued three of the five cases in Brown v. Board of Education more than 40 years ago, serves now as a Federal Judge of the Southern District of New York since 1972. He spoke during the first of eight-part lecture series of the newly formed International Civil Rights Center and Museum at North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro.

"The failure to provide even a semblance of equal educational opportunity for black and other poor minority children," the Judge said,

"has now reached crisis proportions."

"More black children are now attending all black or nearly all black schools than was the case before the Brown Decision and the educational offerings available to them continue to be shamefully unequal," he continued. "Our future, as a people is at stake."

According to Judge Carter, Americans should take the lead in solving this problem. He expressed confidence that white people and institutions would join in helping minorities in these educational initiatives.

"Indeed," Judge Carter added, "if we raised the educational standards in the schools in the inner city, white parents who are increasingly finding the financial burden of private schools unduly costly will be encouraged to return to public schools in our metropolitan areas thus improving the prospects of public schools providing a mixed-racial environment in which black and white children are educated."

The lecture series will be organized by the International Civil Rights Center and Museum under construction on the site of the Greensboro Woolworth's where the 1960 civil rights lunch counter sit-ins began.

"A majority of our youngsters,"

Judge Carter continued, "are now in schools which are not providing them the tools needed for success in this society. All our resources must now be focused on insuring that these children receive a quality education so they can function in mainstream occupations and so that our survival is insured and the country's as well," he said.

Department of Justice figures show one in every three black men between twenty and twenty-nine is "enmeshed" in the criminal justice system, the judge said. This includes being in jail, on parole or awaiting trial. As a result, he said, over a million black men have been disenfranchised as convicted felons.

"These last two phenomena, in my judgment, result from racism in the system," Judge Carter continued. "The black community, which has been strangely silent about this, ought to be up in arms, since we all know that if one in three whites aged twenty to twenty-nine were so situated there would be a nationwide howl of protest. No matter what the purported justification, the policy and practice producing this result would be changed," he said.

The most amazing thing of all, the judge said, is that few if any of the



Judge Robert L. Carter

children involved in the original Brown v. Board of Education litigation have ever received the equal educational opportunity which the Supreme Court decision mandated. Ironically, in 1979 Linda Brown, the subject of the original case, used the Topeka School System, which remained racially segregated, to secure for her son and daughter the educational benefits she had supposedly won in 1954.

NAACP Calls For Independent Probe of Sex Scandal Women say Army Bullied Them

this process."

President Mfume criticized the

"We agreed that these

disturbing charges of

coercion and intimidation

made by the five women

need to be investigated

fully and immediately."

probe and questioned the tactics of

threat and intimidation used by in-

vestigators. "There has been a great

deal of pressure brought on the five sol-

diers to lie about what really hap-

pened," Mfume said. "Ethically and professionally, it is not the way we want the Army to test women."

In light of the developments, President Mfume called upon Attorney General Janet Reno to investigate possible civil rights violations once a conclusion of fact is reached.

Mfume met at the Pentagon today with Army Secretary Togo West to reiterate the NAACP's concerns about the handling of the investigation. Mfume called the meeting cordial but said he and the Secretary disagreed on the need for an independent investigation at this time.

"We agreed that these disturbing charges of coercion and intimidation made by the five women need to be investigated fully and immediately," Mfume said. Secretary West in their

meeting, pledged to do just that. Both the Secretary and Mfume agreed that on the larger issue of sexual harassment, the NAACP would assist the Army in fact-finding at bases around the country where black, white and Hispanic women are the victims of sexual harassment.

"While we disagree on the need for an immediate independent investigation of this scandal," Mfume said, "we have agreed to a series of face-to-face meetings at the Pentagon to insure that every aspect of this unfolding situation has priority."

"The NAACP believes where crimes have occurred the perpetrators should be punished to the fullest extent of the law and where there have not been crimes, innocent people should not be accused," Mfume said.

JACKSON OPENS WALL STREET OFFICE TO MONITOR CORPORATE RACISM

NEW YORK (AP) — Persuading boycotts to help persuade Mitsubishi and Texaco to improve opportunities for minorities, Jesse Jackson is launching a new effort on Wall Street to root out corporate discrimination.

Jackson opened an office Tuesday in the heart of the business capital that will serve as the extension of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to pressure companies to increase racial diversity.

The plan comes at a time when the political climate has become less tolerant of affirmative action and many companies are struggling with racism allegations that could cost them millions of dollars.

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America recently agreed to spend \$300 million over five years to improve minority opportunities, including pay raises and new car dealerships. Texaco agreed to pay \$175 million to plaintiffs in its racism case and hire more minorities.

Aside from problems at Mitsubishi and Texaco, Jackson cited discrimination cases against Disney, Citicorp and Morgan Stanley as "symptoms of a deeper malady."

Jackson said his group would not "need to be on Wall Street" if the Clinton administration paid more attention to "deadbeat corporations that don't honor laws of inclusion." "Right now they have a free ride," said Jackson, who charged the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was understaffed and underfunded. "There is no fear that there will be government pressure for them to open up."

Jackson said the group will use legal action and consumer boycotts if it is unsuccessful at negotiating charges at companies that discriminate against minorities or deal with them unfairly.

He said the group will rate companies on diversity using hiring and promotion practices, the makeup of their corporate boards, and the amount of business they award to companies owned by minorities.

"We are not looking for boycott targets," Jackson said. "But those companies that boycott us will find us ready to reciprocate. The walls on Wall Street must come down."

Jackson also said he will use the new office to push companies and pension funds to invest in minority areas. He said he hopes to work with them to develop a series of American development banks to help minority areas.

The group also will work with labor organizations to monitor pension funds for their fairness to minorities. It will look to see if they have minority money managers and where and in what companies they invest.

He said the group's initial focus will be automobile, food, energy and telecommunications companies — industries that are very susceptible to consumer campaigns. But, he noted, other industries will not be ignored.

Jackson said many companies treat minorities unfairly yet depend on them for sales. There is a "multibillion trade deficit between corporations that target us for consumption and then boycott us as trading partners," he said.

Jackson said minority workers have not been given a fair share of jobs in the corporate world. He cited government statistics that show 20 percent of blacks work in government jobs compared to 1 percent of whites.

Jackson's new office was donated by Donald Trump and it is a 72-story building the developer is renovating. Jackson said the office will have five workers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 19, APRIL 2

WAYNE—Interactive television (ITV) course can be taken at William Paterson College, Hasbrouck Heights High School, Westwood High School, or School 82 in Paterson. For more information, call 201-995-2436.

THROUGH APRIL 27

UPPERMONTCLAIR—An eight-week "English as Second Language" program is being offered at Montclair State University. Registration will be held on Jan. 13 and 15. For more information call (201) 655-4353.

THROUGH APRIL 16

The School of Education at William Paterson College, in cooperation with its Center for Continuing Education, is offering a course designed to improve the mentoring skills of K-12 teachers who wish to assist beginning educators. For more information, call 201-995-2436.

THROUGH MAY 10

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer a preparation course for the NJ Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Examination on Saturdays 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on the JCSC campus at 2033 Kennedy Blvd. For further information call (201) 200-3089.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

PLAINFIELD—Rescheduling of the Regular Board Meeting of the Housing Authority. At the Liberty Village Community Room. For more information, call 908-769-2232.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

PLAINFIELD—Blue Ribbon Panel on Black Infant Mortality at the Plainfield High School Library. For more information, call 908-757-4130.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center will sponsor a program on "Women of Great Faith" for more information, call 908-753-3506.

PLAINFIELD—Blood pressure readings for seniors at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. Members only. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

PLAINFIELD—Videotape discussion on how to be involved with the Literacy Volunteers of America. At the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

PLAINFIELD—Blood pressure readings for seniors at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center. Members only. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

PLAINFIELD—Members of the Plainfield Senior Service Center are invited to a Birthday Party. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

MARCH 21-MAY 2

SOMERVILLE—Printmaking classes for children six through nine at the Printmaking Council. For more information, call 908-725-2110.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

WESTFIELD—Course, "What is it Educators in the Community Really Need to Know to Make a Difference" at the offices of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. For more information, call 908-233-8810.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

NEW BRUNSWICK—Green Party of NJ announces a Public Meeting at the Rutgers Labor Center. For more information, call 908-247-4855.

SOUTH ORANGE—The New Jersey Historical Commission will hold a public hearing about its grants program in the Student Center of Seton Hall University. For more information, call 609-292-6062.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

BRANCHBURG—Children's Fashion Show and Tea Party. At the Edward Nash Theatre, Raritan Valley Community College. For more information, call 908-725-3420.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

UNION—Seminar, "Recognizing Signs and Symptoms of Substance Abuse" at Union Hospital's Community Services Center. For more information, call 908-686-6644.

WATCHUNG—Black and White Print spotting Workshop for Photographers. At the Watchung Arts Center. For more information, call 908-647-0938.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

PLAINFIELD—News and support group, "The Round Table" at the Plainfield Senior Service Center. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

JERSEY CITY—Classes beginning for Tai Chi Chuan, an ancient martial art, at Hudson County Community College. For more information, call 201-714-1735.

APRIL 3-MAY 1

MONTCLAIR—The Urban League is offering a free homebuyers course for people who wish to purchase a home. Graduates will earn a certificate that will help them qualify for a mortgage. 5 weeks, 6:30 pm at Urban League of Essex County. For more information, call 908-753-3506.

East Orange senior's learn about healthy hearts



EAST ORANGE, N.J.—February marked National Heart Month and to celebrate, Essex Valley Healthbeat and the City of East Orange Division of Senior Citizens worked together to educate seniors about healthy hearts. President and CEO of East Orange General Hospital and Essex Valley Healthbeat, Mark J. Channing, talks to 30 seniors at the Vista Village on S. Burnett Street. Standing from left are Birlah Tucker, fitness instructor for the Feelin' Good Program at EOGH, Cathy Enright, Administrative Director, Critical Care/Cardiology/Telemetry, and Keith Pressey, Director, Senior/Volunteer Services at EOGH.

Oxford speaks to fleet employees on diversity



JERSEY CITY, N.J.—Lloyd Oxford, president of The Black United Fund of New Jersey, recently addressed Fleet Bank employees on the issue of diversity, and the employees didn't go away disappointed. Mr. Oxford spoke about how diversity can affect job performance and communication between employees and their managers. In the photo he (right) took a few minutes before his presentation to chat with John Twigg, chief executive of Fleet Bank N.A., and employees Brenda Pankey and Janet Walker. The event marked the debut of a new Fleet initiative called "Diversity Matters," at which employees can gain insights on the subject from community leaders. It took place at Fleet's headquarters in Jersey City.

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Bloomfield professor celebrates student publication interviews with Vietnam Veterans



BLOOMFIELD, N.J.—Bloomfield college Professor Steve Golin (left, top row) celebrates the publication of a book produced by his students entitled "Interviews with Vietnam Veterans." Pictured from left to right, back row: Talina Morales, Andre Rivers, Lisette Colon. Front row: Sheetal Patel and Natasha London.

Neptune High School honors fallen veterans



Your Weekly Horoscope

BY MISS ANNA

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

Tact and foresight will further your career goals. Hard work will pay off sooner than you think. Your family life is changing, a bit more rapidly than you are comfortable with, but the change will be for the good. Express your ideas.

TAURUS: (April 21-May 21)

If you've been feeling depressed, ride it out and the feeling will be replaced with a sense of accomplishment. You've been putting off for some time. You are full of energy, even aggression, don't override it though.

GEMINI: (May 22-June 21)

Try to stay centered, because all those around you are in quite a funk. Coworkers are grumpy and your mate wants to squabble. This tension will continue to drain your energy until you take time out for you—pamper yourself and buy something special.

CANCER: (June 22-July 23)

It's a pretty uneventful week, don't expect much from those close to you. Resolve financial questions for long and short term investments, easing a loved one's mind. You will accomplish more than expected, despite opposition from a foe.

LEO: (July 24-August 23)

You are center of the world both emotionally and physically. Take advantage of the high energy to convince those around you about an idea you've been toying with for sometime. You are surrounded by love, so show you appreciate it. The pace at work is hectic.

VIRGO: (August 24-September 23)

Many demands will be met on your time. Watch out just where you spend your energies and with who. Share any dreams with your mate—you are able to reach each other's mind. Your evenings are made for romance. Expect a battle of wits in the workplace.

LIBRA: (September 24-October 23)

A few authoritarian types may get in your way, so pursue independent projects. Your financial outlook is on the upswing. Pressure at work will probably ease up, and your cheerful mood contagious. Share the passion and romance with your lover.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 22)

Be sure to think before you speak, or you may come off sounding like an uneducated pain in the neck. Take it easy if you're not feeling washed out, the flu may be coming on. There's nothing happening at work that can't wait until tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23-December 23)

This may not be the best time to interact with others. You and your sweetheart experience a clash of egos, so play it cool. If confused about your motives, wait until you are seeing things more clearly to sort out the situation. A vacation is a great idea.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 20)

The people around you need your help just when you are able to lend a hand. If you own a car, try to at least listen to their problems. Play it cool with colleagues who may demand a confrontation. Any tensions from earlier in the week seem to be gone for good.

AQUARIUS: (January 21-February 19)

A friend with problems may need help. Love is in the situation will be the best medicine. A co-worker is looking for a fight, so try to keep a low profile and don't be a target. Make sure to think before you speak, your business may land you in trouble.

PISCES: (February 20-March 20)

This week promises to be full of fun, laughter and friendship. All you need to do is be yourself. You may be feeling that everything is against you at work—the obstacles are only temporary. If you accept a new challenge, you can increase your income. IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You prosper in your home life while cementing your closest bonds. You learn from the past and have great hopes for the future, even though you tend to be indecisive and somewhat insecure at times. You have very real dreams which help you understand what is presently happening.

Newark resident recognized as top employee at Saint Michael's medical center



NEWARK, N.J.—George Bush of Newark (right), outpatient registration clerk at Saint Michael's Medical Center, is presented with an award for receiving commendations from colleagues and patients in 1995 as part of the hospital's Employee Recognition Program. Presenting the award to Mr. Bush are (from left) Cheryl Taylor, director of patient administrative services; Dominick J. Caligi, senior vice president and administrator of Saint Michael's; and Ariane Haines, director of admissions. The Employee Recognition awards are given to employees and physicians who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to service excellence and patient satisfaction.

Eogh holds workshop to help those through grieving process



EAST ORANGE, N.J.—East Orange General Hospital recently held a community workshop on bereavement and the grieving process. The highly emotional workshop was led by Reverend Arnold Fox, EOGH Chaplain and the Crisis Unit. Pictured from left are Lisa Young, EOGH Patient Representative, Rev. Arnold Fox, Zen Franni, Director of Crisis, Pamela Love, Assistant Director of Crisis, and Maribel Martinez, Child Clinician, MSW, LCSW.

PICTURED TO THE LEFT

NEPTUNE, N.J.—Student Council President Theresa Scott and Major General David R. Gust, Program Executive Officer, Intelligence and Electronic Warfare, Fort Monmouth, participated in the dedication of the newly-renovated library at the Neptune High School Vietnam Veterans Memorial Information Center. Listed on the marble plaque "dedicated to those who gave their lives in service to our country" among the eleven veterans, was one black, Specialist Paul D. Bacon, US Army, Class of 1968, who was killed in Vietnam on June 5, 1972. Bacon, an infantryman served his first tour of duty in Vietnam in 1970, and volunteered for a second tour and was in the last three weeks of his second tour when he was killed. The inscription on the ceremony program read, "Those who fought in Vietnam came home to a country in turmoil. We did not properly thank them. We now thank our own who did not return."

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Highway 9 and Addison Road
MILLBURN:
200 Main Street
NAVESINK:
Highway 26 and Valley Road
PLAINFIELD:
100 Main Street
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UNION:
24 Main Street
WEST ORANGE:
24 Main Street

MAC 24 Hour Branch Location

GOVERNMENT
DEMANDS THAT
BLACKS BENEFIT FROM
LUXURY RESORT

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—A luxury residential complex that golfer Nick Price helped design and finance must allocate most of its facilities to blacks, the Harare city council ruled Wednesday.

Council officials said they feared the 262-hectare (650-acre) Borrowdale Brooke Country Club and Residential Estate would become an exclusive enclave for whites seeking to escape worsening crime, homelessness and poverty among blacks.

Price, one of the world's top golfers, was in the United States and unavailable for immediate comment.

The city council, controlled by President Robert Mugabe's ruling party, ordered developers and financial backers, including Price, to set aside 60 percent of the housing, leisure and golfing estate for blacks. According to records of a council meeting last month, city works director Christopher Zvobgo was instructed to halt construction on the project, the nation's biggest luxury residential complex, until the developers guaranteed investment and participation by blacks.

In recent advertising by the developers, parcels of land before construction cost up to 600,000 Zimbabwe dollars (dls 60,000), well out of the reach of most blacks.

Designs for spacious homes surrounding an 18-hole golf course, the "Plink Price clubhouses," a top of the range sports complex and health center, a private school, a luxury hotel and extensive landscaped gardens were approved by city planning authorities last year.

Price, who is from Zimbabwe, advised South African golf specialists Peter Matkovich and Dale Hayes and architects and project managers Whiter Associates on design aspects.

So far this year, work to clear hills terrain at the site has been delayed by seasonal rains. The completion date for the 2.5 billion Zimbabwe dollars (dls 250 million) development was not clear.

A brochure produced by the developers said Price, who owns a home in Florida, would live on the estate when in Zimbabwe.

"Having lived many years in the public eye, I have learned to appreciate the value of a comfortable, secure and private lifestyle. These are the qualities I have now come home to find," the brochure quotes Price as saying.

Price added he was proud "to be more than just associated with Borrowdale Brooke. I'm committed to being part of its community."

Whites comprise an economically powerful minority of less than one percent of the Zimbabwe population of nearly 11 million people.

YOUTH GROUP
CRITICIZES MEDIA/
RECORD INDUSTRY
FOR PROMOTING RAP
WAR

NEW YORK (AP)—A group of young blacks criticized the media and the entertainment industry last Tuesday for promoting a "rap war" and degrading their culture.

The Code claimed that the "senseless" murders of rappers Christopher Wallace, known as the Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls, and Tupac Shakur were isolated incidents "related to the thousands of blacks and Latinos killed each year." Joel Michel, 23, a spokesman for The Code, said at a news conference.

Both rap musicians were victims of drive-by shootings. Wallace was killed Sunday, Shakur in September.

The Brooklyn-based organization charged that the entertainment industry uses monetary enticements to get black youth to portray negative images through gangsta rap, which glorifies guns, drugs, sex, and death.

"Black people don't control their art form. Record labels and radio stations don't promote positive rap," Michel said.

Members of The Code believe an East Coast-West Coast rivalry in rap, of which Wallace and Shakur allegedly were central characters was created by the music industry as a diversion to increase revenues. They criticized the media for feeding into the idea.

The group said it plans to implement a "code of conduct" for black youth that will reflect an "uplifting theme which breaks and disposes of the myth," said Erica Ford, a spokeswoman for the group.

Michel said The Code was founded in 1994 to make youth politically aware of external forces that destroy black communities. Ford said the group has members in several major U.S. cities, but she was unable to provide any figures.

Industry insiders say rap sales won't dip due to rappers' deaths

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody
Associated Press Writer

The slaying of another one of rap music's biggest stars is likely to bring more criticism of the rap world and make record companies uneasy, but it won't hurt sales or deter fans, industry leaders and observers say.

The Notorious B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was gunned down in Los Angeles early

Sunday after leaving a party to celebrate the Soul Train Music Awards. His slaying came six months after his rival Tupac Shakur was killed in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas.

They were two of the biggest stars in rap. Between them, Wallace and Shakur—who often utilized violent images in their lyrics—sold more than 6 million in the past four years alone.

But other rap stars—like the Fugees, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and the Wu-Tang Clan—have shown they

can generate similar sales.

"Just because of the nature of rap, some anonymous person can still come out and be the next big person," said John Kivwana, political editor at the rap magazine The Source in New York and author of the book "The Rap on Gangsta Rap."

David Belgrave, a vice president of marketing at Def Jam records, home to such top rap acts as LL Cool J, Foxy Brown and Method Man, said the shootings might make big-label dis-

tributors reconsider their ties to such music.

Time Warner dropped Interscope Records in 1995 in the midst of attacks over violent and sexually explicit lyrics on the label's rap releases.

"It's very possible you might have one, two or other music companies react that way," Belgrave said from Los Angeles.

Rap sales account for about 9 percent of U.S. music sales. Last year, rap sales totaled 56 million, up from 42

million, according to Soundscan.

Kitwana said music companies will keep putting out rap music as long as there's a market, despite criticism that "gangsta rap" fuels violence. "I don't think record industries have that type of conscience," he said.

Phyllis Pollack of Def Press in Los Angeles, which handles publicity for rap artists, suggested such stars are unfairly judged.

ABC's Simpson says blacks denied top network jobs

AUBURN, Ala.—ABC news anchor Carole Simpson said minorities have made employment gains at the network over the years, but they are stuck in "window dressing" jobs and denied top management jobs.

"If you turn on the TV, all over the country, the networks may have a black newscaster, a black sports guy, an Asian anchorwoman," Ms. Simpson said. But she said blacks have not reached top management posts dominated by white men.

Ms. Simpson, a black who is considering leaving TV news for an academic setting, elaborated on comments about race bias in broadcast news that she made in a speech and news conference at Auburn University last year.

"In top management, where the real power is, those jobs are still being denied us," she said. "That's the next big hurdle. There is still work to be done."

Ms. Simpson anchors the ABC Evening News weekend editions and also does occasional reporting for the network's magazine shows.

She disclosed that she is a finalist for the dean's job at Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. The vacancy opens in June, she said.

She said she has wanted to return to teaching, which she did at Tuskegee University in Alabama after graduation.

BRYANT GUMBEL JOINING CBS

NEW YORK (AP)—Bryant Gumbel has decided to join CBS News, ending weeks of speculation about where he would work after leaving NBC's "Today" show, The Associated Press learned Wednesday.

CBS is expected to announce the multi-year deal Thursday, said a well-placed source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At CBS, Gumbel will work on a prime-time magazine show built around him, the source said Wednesday. The show is likely to begin in the fall, but would not replace the network's long-running show "48 Hours."

Gumbel will also do specials and the deal includes an arrangement with Eyewitness, the network's syndication arm, the source said. The deal does not provide for any role in CBS Sports, "CBS Evening News" or CBS' "This Morning."

Gumbel, 48, spent 15 years as anchor of "Today," network TV's top-rated morning show. When he left Jan. 3, he said it was time to do something new in television, but he was taking some time off first.

ABC courted him, and NBC wanted to keep him for other projects. Gumbel had been with NBC Sports when he was tapped in 1982 to replace Tom Brokaw on the morning show.

An ABC spokeswoman declined comment Wednesday night.

Gumbel had announced his decision to leave "Today" a year in advance, allowing time for a graceful exit and a smooth transition for his replacement, Matt Lauer, who had been the show's news anchor.

"It's a nice time to leave," Gumbel said in December. "I'm still relatively young, and we will have been in first place for over a year. In 15 years, we will have won more than we lost."

Gumbel's last show became a two-hour tribute to his tenure—he was the longest anchor in the program's 45-year history.

ing from the University of Michigan—the only black among 60 students earning journalism degrees.

Her Auburn appearance was sponsored by the school's Office of Minority Advancement for Student Services and the Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Ms. Simpson said ABC "has made tremendous strides in hiring young minorities, who are in the pipeline now, still learning."

"The number of minority reporters has increased tremendously in the 15 years I've been there," said Ms. Simpson, an Emmy Award winner who anchored one of the presidential debates in 1992.

But, she said, "all my career I've faced racial and sex discrimination... I'm in my 50s now, and I'm prepared to fight age discrimination should that come up."

Rosa parks honored as 'First Lady of Civil Rights'

By Harry Fromenthal
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rosa Parks, who took the most famous bus ride in U.S. history, was honored by



Rosa Parks

the American Public Transit Association on Wednesday with its first lifetime achievement award.

"It is because she chose to sit where she sat that I can stand here I stand," said Gordon J. Linton, the head of the Federal Transit Administration. He called Mrs. Parks the "first lady of civil rights."

Mrs. Parks was honored for her refusal on Dec. 1, 1955, to surrender her seat on a segregated Montgomery, Ala., city bus to a white passenger as the law required. Her arrest sparked a yearlong boycott of Montgomery buses by blacks that propelled the Rev. Martin Luther King into prominence.

Her quiet, courageous act changed America, its view of black people, and redirected the course of history, the transit association said.

"She truly is a national heroine," said Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I. He called Mrs. Parks, now 84, the spark that triggered the civil rights movement.

"Mrs. Parks sat that our nation could stand taller," said Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater. "If it had not been for people like Mrs. Parks, many of us would not be here today."

And the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and chairman of the board of Atlanta's rapid transit authority, said her act "sent the clear message that public transit was people transit."

"Because of your courage, Rosa Parks... there is dignity for everyone here," Lowery said. Thanks to you, we can move with dignity. You are the Queen Mother of the movement."

Who will be this year's 100 Most Influential

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EDUCATION

What are you going to do now?

When the mainstream media wrote about the death of Tupac Shakur, they turned into a battle of East Coast and West Coast rappers. When Tupac's "rival," the Notorious B.I.G., is gunned down, that just added fuel to the fire. Meanwhile, none of this new information, remember the boycott of Time Warner over Ice-T's *Cop Killer* lyrics or how about C. Delores Tucker's crusade against gangster rap, and how every time you happen to hear those lyrics you comment how that music should be made. Now six months after the hoopla over Tupac Shakur, after the numerous comments from the record industry, every civic organization, teens, old heads etc., we roll around to the same old scenario. One could probably make a good wager on an instant replay of this trade of concern after the next rapper gets killed.

We should stop this deceit perpetrated by ourselves on ourselves. We should decide the way to do something before your son or daughter decides to visit the West Coast, and get blown away because he or she happens to hail from somewhere East of the Mississippi. Please don't think this is extreme when right now you and I, as concerned adults, are spending time reading, writing, and discussing the impact of two gangster rapper's death on Black people in general.

The point is let's do something proactive instead of reactive. Let's tell the music industry that we will not buy their music unless they give us these obviously talented young rappers the opportunity to make positive music. I'm not calling for censorship, I am suggesting that we allow music that is detrimental to our young people, presenting images of sex, violence and drugs to stay on the shelves. As responsible adults we must be able to turn the station, say no to the purchase of certain music, and change the direction of music which is bringing our youth down.

In many instances, we are proud of what today's generation has created. We cheer them on in their successes and what they are trying to accomplish. We must act now to change the conditions that led to these deaths and the hail from countless writers and we have to do so before another tragic reminder occurs.

JESUS, A BLACK MAN

(Know the Truth...)

It is not surprising that Desi Arnaz Giles has received threats as a result of portraying a Black Jesus. First in Jesus was BLACK MAN! The description of his color is clearly given in the Bible (feet like burnt brass, hair like wool, etc.).

Most Caucasians have a problem with this truth because they fear that Black people will feel divinely connected with God (and His servant—Jesus). They fear that we will realize the depth of their many tricks and lies concerning this great Black man that he was not born Dec. 25th but born in the month of September). They want us to continue to see them as "Masters." They want us to continue to have that "slave mentality." After all, you cannot serve two masters at once.

Michelangelo painted the first official "white" Jesus for the Christian Church. In 1509 he started, and finished in 1511, commissioned by Pope Julius II. Up until that time, even Rome worshipped the Black Madonna and Child, and we find in Spain, we find in Poland, we find in the Soviet Union, and we find in all kinds of books everywhere. The first Madonna and Child being Isis, and Horus. (Prof. Ben Johansson—"Like It Is"—air date 4/18/82, show #483).

Notice the reason that he did this painting. It was his way to America. To be slaves so the image had to be set in our minds, our way to submit to our "Masters." Being that we're a spiritual people by nature, we were manipulated into believing that we were inferior because our "Blackness" was different with the image of God's servant, Jesus, thus God.

Dr. Frances Criss Welsing, author of *The Iliad Papers* writes on page 70... "This was the conscious or unconscious attempt to further repression from the collective white consciousness the true source of white anxiety and fear—the Black male and his genitals."

This is another subject matter.

Does Jesus' color make a difference? Evidently... Jesus was a Black Man no doubt. Know the truth and the truth will set you free (from mental and spiritual slavery).

Not only do I encourage you to see to the brother in "Passion Play" but also take down your false image of Jesus and replace it with the real Jesus. If you are not fooled by the Marcus Murrell Garvey, page 53 reads, "If you can satisfactorily do that, then you can be like Christ and lift yourself to the highest plane of spirit and human life."

Kai A. Nyongu

Working parents squeezed out health care system

by Marian Wright Edelman

At the end of each month, Tom and Michelle Lancaster would gather up the new medical bills that poured into their vestibule. As it took, they tucked them into a quiet corner of the living room.

"All I can do is stick those bills somewhere out of the way," said Michelle, who, along with her husband Tom, is struggling to make ends meet and yet makes too much to qualify for Medicaid for themselves and their three daughters. "I just got two bills in the mail for over \$1,000. I really want to pay them, but I can't do anything

about them right now. My kids have to be fed, we have to have heat in the house, and we can't do without electricity."

Although Michelle works full-time and her husband works 30 hours a week, they go to technical school for another 20 hours—neither is provided health insurance through their jobs. Their mortgage costs \$184 a month, and their monthly grocery bill is over \$100. They no longer have a car payment because their car was recently repossessed. Together, they earned \$15,000 last year.

The Lancasters' middle daughter, Candie, age 9, has asthma and other medical complications, which cost \$300 a month to treat. And all three children and both parents have caught the flu several times this winter. Michelle broke her arm and Tom had to get extensive tests to see if he had a blood clot in his lungs. They are still waiting for the results of his examination. "A lot of people foreign doctor visits for their kids because they can't afford it," said Michelle who suffers from asthma too. "But I would never do that for my kids. If they get sick, we go to the doctor, they bill me, and we do the best we can to pay. I can only give what I have."

The good news is that the Lancaster family was notified just days after the original interview for this column that they now qualify for a special Pennsylvania health insurance plan that will cover the children. The bad news is that there are millions of other parents in America who work hard everyday to provide for their families and still earn too little to afford private health insurance and too much to qualify for Medicaid—and there is no special state plan to rescue their families.

By Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

Welfare reform, which has an unstated but underlying premise of full employment, and federal reserve policy, whose stated purpose is full employment and price stability, are on a collision course. Why? Because the Fed is dominated by those who protect financial interests and who are fighting internal wars out over full employment.

In fact, if the economy really begins to grow and unemployment begins to recede below five percent—in the 1960s and '70s it was three percent—Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan, and the Federal Reserve Board raise interest rates to slow the economy and reduce job creation. They say that the economy is overheating. So just as the economy begins to grow, the welfare can go off the spicket. The course is set for a collision between the stated goals of federal welfare reform (welfare-to-work) and the Fed.

In the past, when the national economy slowed, unemployment rose and hard times set in, the less fortunate could at least turn to welfare as a last resort. Under the new welfare reform policy they can no longer be assured of that. The federal floor under the poor for the past 60 years has been removed.

Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed into law the welfare reform bill in 1996. It changed the entire structure of welfare. Recipients can be on welfare only two years continu-

ously and then they are legally guaranteed to be off. The federal government will guarantee paying for a cumulative five years of welfare benefits lifetime and no more.

There is not a similar federal guarantee that when you are forced off of welfare that a job will be available through the private or public sectors. Thus, today, a welfare recipient is the only one with the mandate of a 1950s song, "Get A Job!" It's easier to get tough on poor people who don't vote than it is to get serious about full employment.

Underlying welfare reform is the moral principle that every person who can work, should work. That's morally sound, but it has no economic support. Government leaders and the nation should not impose the cultural standard of "the Protestant work ethic" on welfare recipients and the unemployed on the one hand, unless they have a real policy and an actual program of full employment on the work.

Logically, because of welfare reform, the government must now become the employer, not of last resort, but of first resort. This is the first priority of the government's fiscal and monetary policies and programs must be to achieve full employment and balanced economic growth. If full employment is achieved in the private sector alone, then the government should guarantee every able-bodied person who wants to work a socially useful job doing meaningful

work, making a livable wage. Only then does the nation, the government and its leaders have the moral right to even suggest that every able-bodied person be trained to work and get a job.

Currently, there is an abstract policy (Humphrey-Hawkins), but no actual government policies or programs to achieve full employment. Since the Great Depression, despite a RHETORIC which emphasizes the work ethic, the nation's and the government's leaders real commitment has been to be far more willing to establish programs to welfare or income transfer programs than to establish a full employment peace-time economy.

There is great concern among many politicians that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) be accurate. Of course, the CPI should be accurate, but the politics of CPI appear to be more a bipartisan conservative Democratic concern about reducing the budget deficit in exchange for certain tax cuts for the Republicans on the road to getting a budget agreement, than accuracy.

There is no similar concern that the unemployment rate be accurate. While the official unemployment rate is 5.3 percent (7.5 million people who receive unemployment compensation but do not have a job), the actual unemployment rate (including underemployed people is closer to 15-20 million Americans who are unemployed, underemployed, working part-time when they want to be working

full-time, have never had a job or gave up looking for one (so that they are never counted among the unemployed) or, with corporate and government downsizing, workers are worried that they may soon be in one of those categories. That's a more accurate picture and the reason there is so much economic anxiety in the land.

Today Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan will testify before the Democratic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee. No doubt, he will give his usual classic presentation of overblown optimistic pessimism that will cause the markets to tremble and react to every intonation of every syllable of every word. One reason he will speak in such obtuse terms is to obfuscate his stance at a time when he's testifying under the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act, while really pursuing a policy of fighting inflation.

What Mr. Greenspan ought to recommend today is a comprehensive and sound plan of government finance. It would move from our current obsession with debt and deficits to other uses of fiscal and monetary policies to promote economic stabilization and renewal, through a more progressive tax structure, a level of taxation adequate to meet national goals, a commitment to a full real employment level, and large-scale public investment to reduce our social, environmental, human capital and other accumulated damaging deficits.

Tipac, Biggie, Thex and Us

by Askia Muhammad

We have come to a low place when Black men can be gunned down like beasts.

An ibex is a beast, one of various species of Alpine wild goat. The recent cold-blooded, unprovoked murder of a police officer by a patron who had just been ejected from a Washington night club called the Thex has resulted in the revocation of that joint's liquor license and its occupancy permit, an important consequence in the concern for the security of public safety personnel in our society.

The murders of rap musicians Tupac Shakur, and Biggie Smalls (Notorious B.I.G.) have resulted in routine police investigations and bewilderment by the African American population. Also, no surprise, given the low regard in which Black males are held.

If Whites were systematically committing such gruesome atrocities against Black men, as happened to Tupac and Biggie (and regularly to anonymous Blacks daily) many of us

would be marching and protesting at the White House, Justice Department and the U.S. Capitol.

But since the perpetrators of these vicious crimes are Black, and enjoy the same culture and lifestyle as the victims, Black folks never seem to do anything. Maybe that's because they just don't know what to do, or what to say.

I say, start by looking at ourselves and examining ourselves. Start by acknowledging that our hoodlum class is not really a "Menace II Society." It is only a "Menace 2 Us."

As gentrification quickly transforms inner-city night spots all over the country from Black hang-outs to so-called "Punk Rock" clubs, there is a corresponding reign of terror against White night club patrons, by Black so-called "Boyz In Da Hood."

In Washington, at spots like The 930 Club (formerly a reggae dance hall), and The Black Cat (formerly an African music joint), White patrons safely line the streets the evening of a show, waiting to pay their money to go inside. That's an odd phenomenon,

after all Whites by and large have more money to steal than Blacks, if you consider the robbery is the motive for such criminal behavior.

I don't think robbery is the motive in the fratricide being committed against Black men in our streets. Tupac was not robbed. Notorious B.I.G. was not robbed. Self-hatred is the underlying cause, in my opinion.

No, Tupac and Biggie were gunned down after what should have been pleasant social events, where they went looking to have a good time, not to find trouble: a boxing match in Tupac's case; a party after a music award show in the case of Biggie.

But at what places were they looking for us? Why were we so far from entertainment? Why can't we see that it is in our own best interest to self-regulate our own "good behavior," not to just get out of jail early, but at all times?

The double irony is that the prison industry is probably the fastest "growth industry" in America, as we enter the 21st Century. Just the numbers figures show that the numbers of

adults in prison increased MORE THAN THREE TIMES between 1980 and 1994, from 120,000 to 992,000. Guess who makes up that majority.

Both California and Florida—prestigious states with large numbers of progressive institutions of higher education—now spend more in their states on prisons than on universities. California, for example has built 21 prisons since 1984, but only one new university.

And who do you think are the residents of these newly constructed jails, where on average \$30,000 per year is spent to house each inmate, compared to \$5, 000 per year needed to send each inmate to college?

You guessed right, Black males, the fellows convicted of shooting police officers and rap stars and "Average Joe" who are around night clubs for wild gangs and other beasts, and still represented by Black (males who haven't learned to get the "beast" out of their own personal behavior. They're in the intended inmates at all these new jails.

What a boy needs to be man

By Michael Sharp

There is no feeling quite like the sensation that you get when you are in time with nature. I have to admit, though, that nowadays that sensation is getting harder and harder to capture. Due to everyone's sense of entitlement regardless of the consequences, it seems that people nowadays are more concerned with their personal agenda than they are with ascertaining the truth. This narrow viewpoint, in and of itself, is a backhanded compliment to the greatness of the principles of a democratic society. The inherent virtues of our society are the same tools being used to denigrate the system by stagnant thinkers and the less principled. This paradox of democracy, much like the paradoxes of nature, allows those who aren't as strong physically, mentally, morally and spiritually to survive and to some instances prosper. For a while.

Being in tune with nature is easiest when you are a child, it is this stage when you search for the simple truths in life. You are not judged by other people's prejudices yet, you are just trying to make sense of your world. This was, at least, how it was for me as I was growing up. I remember the times when nature was my friend.

In the midst of my youth I'd ride my motorcycle through those endless hot summer days, peeling at the base of a gigantic, old weeping willow tree and climb up into it's shade. While sitting there amid the trees' garland branches, I'd gaze out at the sky through the bushy, slender leaves lost in myself. It was during one of these boyhood ventures that the concept of manhood completely overwhelmed me. A sense of power surged through me followed soon after by a feeling of awe. The contradiction of this situa-

tion intrigued me. I was in awe of the power of my masculinity yet I was afraid of what could happen if it was misused.

I remember thinking of how it would be if I lived in an age or place where society wouldn't allow me to be a man. I couldn't imagine myself behind bars with a girl as wonderful as I thought of my ancestors who were also aware of this gift and the horror and despair that they must have felt by not being allowed to exercise and express this most basic of God-given rights due to the ignorance,

tyranny, and oppression of slavery. I don't want to mislead the reader. While it is true that I was able to lead the life of a man, the person who enabled me to recognize it was my father. Although he wasn't my biological father, he is my dad. As an orphan, I sometimes let my thoughts wander to the type of person my father might have become if it wasn't for this man's influence in my life. The conclusions that I come up with are rarely positive.

Send your comments and letters to:

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Publisher
Henry C. Johnson Ph.D.
Executive Editor
Jan M. Edgerton Johnson
Director of Advertising Sales
Henry C. Johnson
Contributing Writers
Askia Muhammad, Sharon Vincent, Avery Grant, Jerene Johnson, Sonia Kibble-Elili, Bill Rodi, Daryle Jenkins
Composition & Layout
C.J. Johnson

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NEWARK SELLS 80 PROPERTIES AT AUCTION

The City of Newark sold over \$14-million worth of city property at its first general auction for 1997, Mayor Sharpe James announced today. "The American Dream is alive and well in Newark," James said. "Our property auction results prove that people want to live and invest in Newark's renaissance."

According to Johnny Jones, manager of the Division of Property Management, 80 properties were sold at the auction held in the Terrace Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Of the 81 properties for sale all but one of the 59 structures and 22 vacant lots were sold.

"The property auction is a very reasonable way to purchase real estate," said Jones. "A structure located at 264 Mt. Pleasant Avenue sold for just \$33,000 and a vacant lot at 36 Wright Street sold for only \$517."

Additionally, Jones noted that representatives from lending institutions, construction firms and real-estate brokers participated in the program and provided helpful information. Funding, financing, renovation and upgrading projects purchased at the auction.

BPU APPROVES PSEG PROGRAM TO LET CUSTOMERS CHOOSE GAS SUPPLIER

NEWARK, N.J.—Public Service Electric & Gas Co. on Wednesday became the third utility to let permission to offer some of its residential customers a choice in natural gas suppliers.

PSEG's pilot program approved by the state Board of Public Utilities will be available to 65,000 customers in Bloomfield, Piscataway, Pennsauken and Westhampton.

The board earlier this year gave approval to New Jersey Natural Gas Co. and South Jersey Gas Co. to offer similar plans as the agency works to deregulate the industry.

"New Jersey took another step forward today in continuing the process of opening up the natural gas market to competition for residents," said Gov. Christie Whitman.

"Ultimately, this will lead to more choices and lower energy rates for consumers, and that's welcome news," Whitman said.

The pilot program will begin May 1 and will be open to select PSEG & G customers until June 1998. More than 180,000 PSEG & G business customers have had the third-party supplier option since 1994.

"I believe New Jersey residents will be eager to shop around in this new market for the service or pricing option that is best for them," said BPU Director Herbert Tate.

Stan Kosierowski, PSEG & G vice president of customer operations, called the program a first step toward sweeping changes in the industry.

Local Artists Got Rhythm in "Crazy For You"



Left to Right: Melissa Costello (Lillian Allison Honeyman (Elizabeth), Breck Oxford (Plainfield), Matt Price (Fairwood Blair Brown (Westfield) in "Crazy for You"

"Crazy For You" is the story of Bobby Child, a rich and pampered 1930's New York playboy sent by his domineering mother to foreclose the mortgage on a long-dormant theater in Deadwood, Nevada. Bobby's future takes an unexpected turn as he falls madly in love with Billy Baker, the only girl in the sleepy mining town of 157 men, and assumes the "mistaken identity" of showman Hank Zangler. The featured role of "Test," Zangler's glamorous girlfriend, is played by senior Breck Oxford of Plainfield.

Crazy For You Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22. All performances are at 8 p.m. at Union Catholic High School's Scotch Plains campus on Martine Avenue. For ticket sales and information, call 889-1600.

Professor: Ebonics issue misunderstood

by Avery Grant

LONG BRANCH—Professor Tony A. Wyatt, a speech/language pathologist, said that the Ebonics plan as espoused in the resolution by the Oakland (California) Board of Education has generally been misunderstood by many of the public and the media.

"I know that the media misrepresented it in that the media thought they (Oakland) wanted to teach Ebonics or Black English, and that they really want to do is teach Standard English to the students," Dr. Wyatt said. She said that the teachers must be acquainted with Black English, as a means of transitioning the students to standard English, "It is like a French teacher teaching French, the teacher must know the grammatical rules of both languages, and this is what they are trying to do." The Oakland superintendent has acknowledged that the resolution did incorrectly state that Ebonics would be taught, but it was not to be taught to the students.

Dr. Wyatt, Associate Professor, Department of Speech Communication at California State University-Fullerton, was interviewed while she was visiting her parents, Delores Wyatt and Colonel (retired) James Wyatt, in Long Branch.

She received her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and is widely recognized for her work and publications on the African-American language. "I looked for a Ph.D. program that specifically addressed speech is not a foreign language, and that federal bilingual education funds cannot be used to support Black English in schools," Dr. Wyatt said, "but at UMASS I spent four years with linguists, sociolinguists and anthropologists and I learned the historical aspects of language in our communities."

Dr. Wyatt was asked to be a panelist at a state conference in Oakland in 1996, many months before this resolution arose. "I was asked to discuss whether Black English was a language or dialect, and they wanted to know how to teach Standard English to our kids, since Black English was so prevalent," She said they felt that if they did it, it would be a positive way that the students would reject Standard En-



Dr. Tony A. Wyatt

glish, "While allowing them (students) to feel pride in their own black language and understanding how to move to Standard English."

At the end of the panel discussion, the sentiment was that it was a language because Black English has a structure, and that it should qualify for federal grants like other bilingual programs. "I think some of the participants from the Oakland school district left the conference and began to work on this and subsequently the resolution evolved," Dr. Wyatt said the specifics of the program had not been hammered out, but that the school board just wanted to declare Black English as a second language and go after funds to develop programs and specifics to assist students in transitioning to Standard English.

United States Secretary Edward Riley has stated that Ebonics is a non-standard form of English and is not a foreign language, and that federal bilingual education funds cannot be used to support Black English in schools. Dr. Wyatt disagrees with Secretary Riley. Her research and study at UMASS showed clearly that African American language, "I did my dissertation, 300 pages, on one verb 'IS.' As examples of the structural rules, she said, 'If you have a pronoun before 'is', then you are more likely to get 'is' missing. 'He sick', instead of 'He is sick.' Or it may be said 'He be sick.' There are places that 'is' is never missing, like at the end of sentences."

Dr. Wyatt said that most pathologists never like to study child language, because they felt that it was so unstable. "I worked for five years as a

speech pathologist a low income area in Chicago, and I noticed when I gave my speech test, many of the students appeared to have a speech disorder, and that bothered me," she said, "but when I looked at it closely, the kids were bringing a different language system to the test, and that much of it appeared worse than it actually was."

Concerned that so many students were being placed in special education classes because their dialect was being misdiagnosed as a disability, Dr. Wyatt developed a Pre-School Speech and Language Screening Test for people who speak languages other than Standard English so that they could more accurately be evaluated for a speech disorder. It looks at difficulty in producing sounds, words sentence structure of their native language or the language to which they have been primarily exposed.

"We cannot accept our kids going through school and not learning Standard English," Dr. Wyatt said, "So we want them to understand that what they bring to school is not bad, but that it will not help them in the outside world. It is an opportunity to save our kids and move them to Standard English. It can be a bridge to learning."

She said that the reality is that the other African-Americans learned and

this generation is not learning. "Possibly it because we had black teachers who taught in a manner that was strict, but corrective and that said 'you know I love you and I am not going to put you down, but you need to learn the other English.'"

Dr. Wyatt received a three-year \$250,000 grant from the United States Department of Education to train eighteen graduate speech-pathology students to specialize with people of diverse cultures and languages. The students must take three courses that she developed, and spend one semester working in the Compton (CA) school district of more than 50 percent black students, and a considerably low record of passing achievement tests.

Dr. Wyatt is a 1976 graduate of Monmouth Regional High School, where she excelled in track in the 800 meter event, and attended Northwestern University on a full athletic scholarship. She assists with track coaching at California State University.

In closing the interview, Dr. Wyatt said, "It is the approach (to teaching) that is important, and that certainly involves respect, caring and understanding others' cultures and languages."

Irvington offers tax amnesty

The State-mandated tax increase looming over home and business owners in the Township of Irvington prompted Mayor Sara Bost to introduce a 31-day tax amnesty program that will expunge all interest charges and penalties from delinquent property and sewer tax bills.

The amnesty period applies only to full payments past due real estate and sewer charges, and went into effect on March 1, after the Irvington Township Council adopted the measure at its February 25 meeting.

"This community is about to be hit with a tremendous tax burden, one that we vigorously appealed to the State to lighten. Although a obviously didn't mitigate the tax increase, we can certainly provide some measure of financial relief," he said.

That relief can be quite substantial, as an interest charge of 8 percent is assessed on the initial \$1500 of outstanding debt, followed by an 18 percent daily rate, according to Terry Magnusson, tax collector for the Township of Irvington.

For example, the tax collector explained, the owner of a one-family house who pays his property tax bill for all of 1996 can expect to save \$608.89.

The municipality also has the authority to assess an additional 6 percent on bills in excess of \$10,000, Magnusson added.

We want to encourage more people to come forward and, with tax amnesty, they may do so without fear of monetary penalty," according to the Mayor. "The bottom line is, the more people who pay up, the quicker we will

Council approves aerial lift, vehicles

PLAINFIELD—Twenty resolutions and three ordinances were discussed at last week's City Council meeting. Among the issues discussed were authorization to grant an extended grace period for first quarter tax payments to April 1, 1997, and authorization to award a bid contract to W.E. Timmerman Co. for a new 1997 55-foot aerial lift mounted on a cab and chassis with radio installed.

There was only small concern as to what the council was buying in regards to the aerial lift. Because there has been a large number of requests for tree trimming and branch removal in Plainfield, the Council deemed it necessary and approved the bid. The cost of the lift will be \$142,600.00.

Approval has also been given to purchase two new pickup trucks and a new street sweeper for Public Works. There was also a resolution by the council expressing its support and endorsement of the General Re-evaluation report, and supplemental environmental impact statement prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers in December 1996.

regain some fiscal stability." Bost asserted.

About 5 million in property and sewer taxes are owed to the Township, which has a 92 percent collection rate. "Obviously, we don't expect to recoup that amount over such a short time span," according to Business Administrator David W. Fuller, "but we are hoping this program will serve as a stimulus for taxpayers to make timely payments in the future."

For information, call the Office of the Tax Collector (201) 399-6613.

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Murder charges filed

Continued from page 1

prosecutors to seek the death penalty. Markhasiev and his mother came to the United States about eight years ago from Lvov, Ukraine, an industrial and cultural center of 800,000 people. He attended a number of Los Angeles-area schools.

Students at Los Alamitos High School in Orange County said Markhasiev was called "Pee Wee" because of a perceived resemblance to the film and television character Pee Wee Herman.

Markhasiev also had ties to the Varrio Los Alamitos gang, the Long Beach Press Telegram reported Saturday.

"He was promoting VLA as a big bad group," said Soda Davetas, 17, of Laurel High, near Los Alamitos High. "He was too fake. He walked around talking that big talk. It is not powerful when you talk like that."

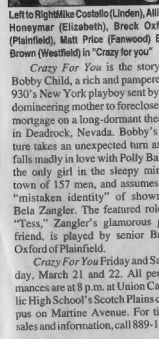
He earned a B average, the second-highest possible, at Reseda High School, where he enrolled in 1993 after transferring from Los Alamitos.

Markhasiev was hired in February as a cashier at Mainly Seconds Pottery Plants and Things near the apartment he shared with his mother. He was scheduled to work the night he was arrested, Officer Jim Herzoff said.

"He just seemed like a nice kid who lived down the block," Herzoff said. In late 1995, Markhasiev spent six months in a juvenile probation camp. His juvenile record includes a conviction for marijuana possession and assault with a deadly weapon, newspapers reported.

Markhasiev and his mother were quiet tenants who signed a year-long lease in January for the two-bedroom apartment in North Hollywood, building manager Olga Faynshteyn said.

Asked about the mother's reaction to the case, Faynshteyn said, "I guess she's shocked like everybody else. She wasn't expecting it."



Left to Right: Melissa Costello (Lillian Allison Honeyman (Elizabeth), Breck Oxford (Plainfield), Matt Price (Fairwood Blair Brown (Westfield) in "Crazy for You"

Business Calendar

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

CRANFORD—William Morrison, manager Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals, Kenilworth, will be the guest speaker at a breakfast meeting at the New Jersey State Bar Association. For more information, call 908-750-7501.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners' Regional Business & Industry Expo. For more information, call 908-843-6868.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Seminar, "What Everyone Should Know About Child Custody, Child Support and Grandparents Rights" at the New Jersey State Bar Association. For more information, call 908-937-7518.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

EDISON—Official ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of Middlesex County College's Learning Resources Center. For more information, call 908-926-2566.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

PHILADELPHIA—Delaware Valley Minority Business Resource Council General Meeting. For more information, call 215-993-9977.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Leadership Development Course for Managers," New York Hilton And Towers. For more information, call 1-800-235-4141.

TRENTON—Small Business Development Center Open House. For more information, call 609-396-7246.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

FAIRFIELD—Seminar, "Leadership Development Course for Managers" (Best Western Executive Inn). For more information, call 1-800-235-4141.

MAHWAH—Registration for Ramapo College's course on subject of computer literacy, "CMS - Computer Science." For more information, call 201-529-7695.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

PHILADELPHIA—Seminar, "Leadership Development Course for Managers," Doubletree Club Hotel. For more information, call 1-800-235-4141.

NEW YORK—Roundtable discussion, "Marketing to Women" at the New York International Auto Show. For more information, call 212-677-3070.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

ATLANTIC CITY—Economic Opportunities Conference, "Riding the Second Wave of Development" at the Townsend Presidential Learning Center (TLC), Richard Stockton State College. For more information, call 609-344-0535.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Course on "Creative Fund-Raising for the Small Non-Profit," at Montclair State University. For more information, call 201-655-4353.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

TRENTON—"Community Assistance Seminar" sponsored by the US Small Business Association at the Trenton Business & Technology Center. For more information, call 609-396-7246.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Chapter Dinner Meeting. Theme, "Emotional State Management and Modeling." For more information, call 908-560-9607.

APRIL 17-20

CHICAGO—National Association of Market Researchers 45th Annual Conference at the Chicago Swissotel. For more information, call 312-874-3773.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

WEST WINDSOR—"Business Goes to College" conference at Mercer County Community College. For more information, call 609-580-4000, ext. 263.

MAY 8-10

EAST BRUNSWICK—New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners' National Business Conference. Key-note speaker, Debi Fields, Founder of the Mrs. Fields cookie empire. For more information, call 908-560-9607.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

READING, PA.—General Meeting of the Delaware Valley Minority Business Resource Council. Sponsored by GPU Energy. For more information, call 215-695-9877.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Millennial Fever," sponsored by the Direct Marketing Association. For more information, call 212-768-7277, ext. 1886.

Fax business events to city news
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Nationwide Insurance settle for \$13 million

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Nationwide Insurance said it has agreed to investing more than \$13 million and change its underwriting and marketing policies in response to complaints it discriminated against minorities.

But the company is not admitting any wrongdoing in the agreement, Nationwide spokesman Bob Schovick said Monday.

Attorney General Janet Reno announced the agreement with the company's fifth largest insurer on Monday.

"When concerns were raised over its policies, Nationwide came to the Justice Department to work them out," Reno said. "Today's agreement brings Americans of all backgrounds closer to the dream of owning a home, nationwide."

George Knight, executive director of Neighborhood Reinvestment Corp., said Nationwide's move was

an important step in working with the NeighborWorks Network. The network is made up of 172 community-based housing and development groups working in lower-income areas.

"Together we will provide African-American and Hispanic communities with greater opportunities for home ownership and insurance coverage—essential building blocks to stronger, more stable communities," he said.

The Justice Department said the agreement is the most comprehensive ever reached under the federal Fair Housing Act.

The agreement, filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus, resolves allegations that the company made homeowners insurance unavailable or available on less favorable terms in minority neighborhoods.

The company announced some of

the plans for urban expansion in January and said they were unrelated to the discrimination allegations.

"We are pleased that the Justice Department has recognized our efforts," Richard D. Crabtree, president of Nationwide's property and casualty insurance companies, said in a statement. "These markets represent attractive sources of business for us as we strive to strengthen our position as a leading insurance provider."

According to the Justice Department, Nationwide agreed to:

—Inspect a home to decide if it should be covered rather than refusing coverage past a certain age or below a certain value.

Schovick said the company previously said it would eliminate age and value as factors for eligibility. He said inspections would be conducted for safety reasons.

—Strengthening a home's market

value to be a minimum percentage of the total cost of replacement.

—Not place any geographic restrictions that bar homeowners insurance in minority neighborhoods.

Schovick said the company never had any geographic restrictions.

—Target advertising to minority communities.

—Provide \$2.2 million in each of the next six years in up to 10 cities where Nationwide primarily conducts business to assist home buyers in minority neighborhoods with down payments, closing costs, below market mortgage loans, second mortgages and home ownership counseling.

Nationwide will choose the 10 cities from among these 15: Philadelphia; Cleveland; Baltimore; Louisville, Ky.; Richmond, Va.; Cincinnati; Pittsburgh; Atlanta; Charlotte, N.C.; Columbus; Toledo; Dallas-Ft. Worth; Chicago; Memphis, Tenn.; and Indianapolis.

PSE&G announces "It Power search" looking to add 100 high tech jobs in New Jersey

NEW JERSEY—Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) today announced "It Power Search," an ambitious program to enhance and expand its Information Technologies Department. The program calls for recruiting candidates to fill 100 high-tech positions in New Jersey. The addition of positions is designed to assist PSE&G in identifying and seizing opportunities in the rapidly changing energy marketplace.

PSE&G will be reaching out to all of New Jersey's colleges and universities, as well as professional and community groups, to attract the best and brightest in information technologies. In addition, PSE&G will be holding two "It Power Search Job Fairs" this spring.

"While companies around the country continue to downsize, PSE&G is creating high-paying, quality jobs here in New Jersey," said J. Koeppel, Senior Vice President, External Affairs and Corporate Services.

PSE&G. "PSE&G views its Information Technologies Department as a key player in positioning the company for competitive markets and a tool for increasing the quality of service we offer our customers. We are going to need the best talent we can find to do our already superior team of IT professionals. We are prepared to invest in finding that talent right now."

Glenn Rogers, Alice President, Information Technology, added: "The main benefit of telephone deregulation was the explosion of new service. PSE&G fully expects the same burst of innovation and services to follow in the wake of energy deregulation. We are looking for individuals who want to be part of a world class quality team, designing, implementing and supporting systems that will influence the way we buy and sell energy and energy services in the future."

PSE&G is looking for individuals

with a variety of experience from recent college graduates to seasoned veterans. Individuals with a proven track record in the areas of client service, trouble, business process reengineering, technology infrastructure and application consulting will be given priority attention. The positions will assist in the analysis, design, development and implementation of systems, applications and advanced technology architectures across PSE&G's various lines of business. PSE&G is installing or committed to such current advanced technologies as Windows NT, Oracle, Lotus Notes, and SAP. For more information of available positions call 1-201-430-6528.

PSE&G's efforts will include IT Power Search On Campus, where PSE&G will reach out to all of New Jersey's colleges and universities for assistance in identifying top achievers among its bachelor and MIS graduates and recent alumni. In addition, PSE&G will target key colleges and universities including Fairleigh Dickinson, Rutgers, Seton Hall, NJIT, NJ Pater's College and others, for half

day intensive visits by PSE&G Information Technology and Human Resources representatives.

PSE&G is also undertaking an aggressive recruiting campaign in urban and minority communities and will reach out to organizations such as the IEEE, Chamber of Commerce's, 100 Black Men of New Jersey, Black Data Processing Association and groups representing people with disabilities.

Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) is the principal subsidiary of Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (Enterprise) which is a publicly-traded diversified energy and energy services company (NYSE: PEG). PSE&G is New Jersey's oldest and largest regulated utility serving nearly three quarters of the state's population. It is one of the top ten largest combined electric and gas companies in the United States.

Enterprise's second main subsidiary is Enterprise Diversified Holdings Inc. (EDHI), operates Enterprise's unregulated businesses, seeking to position the company to maintain and expand its energy leadership in the region.

Investors Savings debuts low-cost checking account

(Milburn, NJ) — Investors Savings Bank has introduced a checking account designed for customers seeking relief from high fees on personal checking accounts.

Called Century Checking, the non-interest-earning account's basic feature is that there are no monthly service charges assessed if a minimum of just \$100 is kept in the account. "We really feel that this is one of the best checking accounts to come around in a long time," said Patrick J. Grunt, president and C.E.O. of Investors. "Century Checking is just the hand of straight-forward, down-to-basics checking account people have been looking for family finances. And yet," he asserted, "it doesn't skimp on features."

Century Checking account holders get their first 50 personalized checks absolutely free of charge, and they may write as many checks as they wish with no per-check fees being charged. A transaction statement is mailed to holders of the account for record-keeping purposes. An optional feature, the MA-CARD, enables easy access to Century Checking accounts from virtually any ATM at any time.

Century Checking is available at any of Investors' 25 offices throughout New Jersey.

Investors Savings Bank has total assets in excess of \$2.8 billion and continually receives the highest ratings from both Bauer Financial Reports, Inc. and Vantage condition Investors is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

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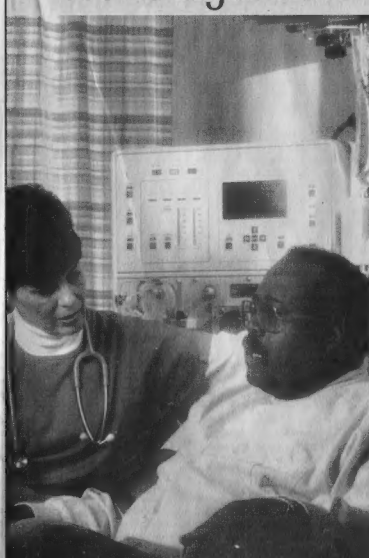


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THROUGH MARCH 22
NEW YORK—Exhibit, "New York area MFA Exhibition" at the Hunter College Fine Arts Bldg. For more information, call 201-200-3214.

WAYNE—"Generations Jambores," celebrating the 85th anniversary of the Girl Scouts. Wayne Manor. For more information, call 800-275-0577.

THROUGH MARCH 31
MONTCLAIR—Exhibit in honor of Black History Month at the Ferris Crane House. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY7.

THROUGH APRIL 25
NEW YORK—Art exhibit, "African-American Pioneers" at the Seagram Gallery, 375 Park Ave. For more information, call 212-572-7370.

MARCH 26, 27
CRAWFORD—Union County Teen Arts Festival at Union County College. For more information, call 908-705-7501.

THROUGH MARCH 30
WAYNE—Exhibit of works by artist Zhaijun Cong. At William Paterson College. For more information, call 201-265-1248.

THROUGH JUNE 8
NEW YORK—Exhibit, "The Streets and Beyond: New York Photographs," at the Museum of the City of New York, 62 Lexington St. For more information, call 212-534-1672.

THROUGH MARCH 27
COLTS NECK—"Tma Big Kid Now," a experience for youngsters ages 3 to 5. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Dorbrook Activity Center. For more information, call 908-642-4000.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
UNION—Outreach program for Elderly at the Hillside Library. For more information, call 908-527-4745.

MARCH 20, 21
NEW BRUNSWICK—"Tommy" at the State Theatre. For more information, call 908-246-7469.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22
NORTH BRANCH—Sky Show, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," which will teach the importance of the Big Dipper to runaway slaves at the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College, Rte. 98 & Lammington Rd. For more information, call (908)923-1805.

ENGLEWOOD—"Freedom Train," the true story of Harriet Tubman, at the John Hays Theater. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY7.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
UNION—Outreach program for Elderly at the Hillside Library. For more information, call 908-527-4745.

WAYNE—Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner portrays 19th Century women's rights advocates Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Matilda Joselyn Gage at William Paterson College. For more information, call 201-595-2971.

MANTHATTAN—Thirteen WNET Teen Leadership Institute will lack diversity and bias at the Cooper Union. For more information, call 212-560-3013.

WAYNE—Dan Flavin, Carl Andre and Donald Judd, sculptors who were part of the Minimal Art movement, will be the subject of a lecture at William Paterson College. For more information, call 201-595-2371.

NEWARK—Training session for volunteers of the Newark Library Campaign at the Newark Public Library. For more information, call 201-623-4001.

CALDWELL—Jazz Singer Jane Powell at the Alumni Theatre of Caldwell College. For more information, call 201-228-4424 ext. 403.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

WATCHUNG—"Voices of the Swing Era" at the Watchung Arts Center. For more information, call 908-753-0190.

NEWARK—Recital with Marilyn Horne at Symphony Hall. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY7.

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Zhane Delivers on their Sophomore Release

By Avonile Brown
 An NNPA Correspondent

When their first song, "Hey Mr. D.J.," hit number one on *Billboard's* R&B chart, Zhane vaulted from the journeyman grind of the Philadelphia music scene to platinum recording status. Their sophomore release, *Saturday Night* (Illtown/Motown), further distinguishes the pair's soaring accomplishments. While the sophomore jinx has banished many female groups to musical obscurity, Zhane has returned with a musically and lyrically strong release. In an interview with NNPA, the duo, Jean Norris and Renee Nueveville, made it clear that their commitment to producing quality music is paramount and their participation extends beyond the glamorous image fans see projected in videos and in performance.

"There was no apprehension with this album," said Renee. "The first album was rushed; after 'Hey Mr. D.J.' hit we had to do the album done in just a few months. This time around we had a year to write the materials we wanted to write, get the production team we wanted," she continued. She was also quick to add that the success of their first album made the experience much easier the second time around.

Renee and Jean are also confident that the depth of their relationship before their musical success has been instrumental in their strength as performers. "Jean and I were friends first. We were roommates in college before we became a singing duo. We are a team, I know she's got my back and I've got hers," emphasized Renee. But most importantly, she said, "We are musicians; we studied music; we take the music seriously."

Indeed Jean and Renee struck their friendship when both were students at Temple University in Philadelphia. Renee, a Brooklyn native of Jamaican heritage who has played classical piano since childhood, was studying English Literature while Jean, a Rhode Island native, majored in Jazz Vocal Performance. After refining their harmony on the amateur circuit they got their first professional exposure on *Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince's* single "Ring My Bell." Their search for a management team led them to Queen Latifah's Flavor Unit Management



where they met rap powder Kay Gee who was looking for a female group to produce. Their collaboration spawned the platinum debut hit "Hey Mr. D.J." Zhane continues the relationship with Kay Gee as he co-produces *Saturday Night* with an expanded production team that includes Eddie F. Easy Mo Bee, J.R. Swing and The Hitmen. The result is a recording that on one hand (A-side) you simply need to turn up the volume and let the pulsating jams move your body. While

on the other hand (B-side), the sultry, steamy sound conjures up candlelit and a creative imagination.

Renee and Jean agree that while there is a softer, gentler sound on this album, the mix is quite eclectic. "On this record we made sure we have something for all our fans, but we also included songs that reflect what Zhane is all about. We are older now so our material reflects that. The A-side is for the fans of Zhane and the B-side is for Zhane," said Renee. Renee and Jean wrote all the lyrics

on the recording and the quality is clearly that of two young women assertively defining themselves and their place in music. "The different songs are like a journal. If you write in your journal for a year, when you reread it you'll see a range of emotions and things that you have experienced. That's what happens when we write music," explained Jean. "And it's how people feel when they listen to music. Today I may be in a 'Saturday Night' kinda party mood, or I may be in a 'Request Line' kinda mood, but tomorrow I just might want to 'Rendezvous' for love." How you feel at a given moment determines what you listen to and it's the same way when we are writing our music, how we feel at the time will dictate the kind of song that we write," added Renee. "We've had experiences and have grown so much since our first album came out and I believe that shows in our work," injects Jean.

The lyrical power of Zhane is only matched by their quiet vocal manipulations. Their seamless musical blend makes it difficult to distinguish between the two singers. Zhane does not hide behind an over-produced, techno-enhanced soundtrack. *Saturday Night* truly showcases their natural talent as musicians.

They deliver soulfully fierce harmonies on songs like "Don't Take My Kindness for Granted," "My Word is Bond" and their remake of Billy Joel's song, "The Longest Time." They add some jazzy inflections with "Rendezvous" and then flow into a pulsating "quiet storm" as they are joined by the sultry vocal maestro Will Downing and instrumentalist Najee on the song "Piece It Together." Their focus shifts from the sensual to the political on the song "Colors" where they question the ways in which we allow our racial differences to divide us. The "divers of dance" will also have you rushing to the dance floor with jams like "Request Line," "Last Dance" and the title track, "Saturday Night."

Zhane's groove can also be heard on two sports-related compilation albums they did the song "After the Cheering Stops" for the NFL and "Good Times" for the NBA. "It was just a coincidence that we

records. We were invited to cover Chic's "Good Times" for the celebration of the NBA's 50th anniversary and while we were recording, we were approached by the guys doing the NFL record. So, we just did it. As a result we got to perform in New Orleans during the Superbowl weekend and in Cleveland for the NBA All-Star Weekend," said Jean.

"Something very interesting happened that has never happened to us before. We were mobbed by fans at the airport in Cleveland and I believe it was because of these sports-related compilations. Our typical audience is African-American young women and men but at the airport they were white. And I believe that in this business that is where we have to go. That doesn't mean that we want to ignore our black audiences but we have to be flexible enough to branch out," Renee informed.

Only 26-years-old themselves, Jean and Renee are mindful of their responsibilities as role models for their fans. "We know that our fans look at us as role models so we try to make them understand that when they see us we are being ourselves. What you see on stage is Jean and Renee. Young women need to recognize that there are options available to them. They don't have to settle for any situation, they can make other choices; there is always more available in life no matter what situation they find themselves in," said Jean.

"We take our role very seriously. For us our parents and family were our role models but we recognize that some of our fans, our female fans especially, don't have the same support that we have as young women. However, the key is they must maintain their self-respect no matter what," insisted Renee.

And as for the future, the duo's primary focus is sustaining and improving the quality of their work. "I don't know what the future holds, but I know we want to continue doing good work. I don't want to overhype myself by making these elaborate plans; we simply want to grow as artists and satisfy our fans," said Renee. "It is also important that we project the people we are and maintain our self-respect and not compromise our soul to the business," added Jean.

NY mourners sing blues farewell to Lavern Baker

NEW YORK (AP)—LaVern Baker, a rhythm-and-blues belter who spent more than 20 years in self-imposed exile before her late-career comeback, was eulogized last Saturday for her contribution to popular music.

"She was one of the voices that brought glory to rock 'n' roll," said Rev. Calvin Butts during the service at Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church. "She once played a club where they had a rope separating the blacks from the whites, but once she started singing they tore the rope down," he said. "She's going to add another dimension to the heavenly choir."

Ms. Baker, who died Monday at age 67, had 20 R&B hits between 1955 and 1965, including "Twelve-Dee," "Jim Dandy," "Play It Fair," "I Cried a Tear" and "See See Rider."

Segregation kept her songs off the radio, and like black contemporaries Little Richard and Big Joe Turner, her role in the birth of rock 'n' roll was largely ignored.

Among the 200 mourners were singers Bonnie Raitt and Ben E. King and Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun.

R&B artist Ruth Brown sang Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven," and read letters of tribute from President Clinton and singer Etta James.

Artists including Sarah Dash and Melba Joyce performed at the funeral, and the cast of the Broadway musical "Godspell" sang a soulful version of "Day By Day."

Friends and family recalled Ms. Baker's lifelong love of music, her

battles against racial injustice, and her indomitable spirit.

"In the sixties, when the Motown sound came in... most of the original rhythm and blues people, even though they had created rock and roll, son of faded out," said Alan Eichler, Ms. Baker's publicist.

"They all handled it in different ways," he said. "She isolated herself from the rest of the world."

Ms. Baker settled near a U.S. military base in the Philippines where she managed a club and performed on weekends for nearly two decades.

Ms. Baker returned home for Atlantic Records' 40th birthday party in 1983 and soon moved to New York, where her career began to surge.

She replaced Ms. Brown in the Broadway musical "Black and Blue" and in 1991 became the second woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame—after Aretha Franklin.

Just a few years after her return, Ms. Baker's health began fading. She suffered several mild strokes and was diagnosed with diabetes. Two years ago, doctors amputated both her legs at the knees.

But the determination that had kept Ms. Baker going during her years out of the spotlight showed itself again when she learned to walk with artificial legs.

LaVern was a pioneer. Her blues-driven gospel style put her at the forefront of a musical revolution, and she was one of the first female stars of the music that became known as rock and roll," said Atlantic's Ertegun.

PEOPLE WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.



"Black people have got to pull together globally to fight racial injustice."

—Randall Robinson
 Executive Director
 TransAfrica, Inc.

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Jungle 2 Jungle



Lolla Davidovich (left) stars as Michael Cromwell's (Tim Allen) right-hand fiancée Charlotte. Jungle 2 Jungle is about Michael Cromwell's discovery of a son who has been raised by his mother in the Amazon.



Youth Talk

The tragic death of Notorious B.I.G.

by Rev. Martin D. Odom

The tragic death of rapper Chris Wallace, AKA Notorious B.I.G. should cause all of us but especially the youth to pause and reflect. Notorious B.I.G. was certainly one of Hip-Hop's brightest stars and most talented performers. Though some of his lyrics in some of his songs were not positive, he did on the whole try to carry himself in a positive way and spread a message of hope, peace, and hard work to his young fans.

Many of his youthful fans, including myself, who bought his tapes, CD's and went to see him in concert are saddened by his sudden death. We should look to see what lessons we can learn from his dying. It is not enough for us to merely join with the rest of the world in conjecture about the East Coast and West Coast rivalries, and stop the violence messages. When a tragedy this painful occurs it reminds us of the perils of urban living and gives us as young people an opportunity to seriously consider the quality of our own lives.

First it should make us think about the type of lives that we live. We just recently celebrated Black History Month, and paid tribute to all those who sacrificed so that our lives could be better. When we consider Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, and the many others who were killed for noble purposes it makes the slaying of Mr. Wallace even more ridiculous. As young people let us live lives that have meaning and purpose and direction so that the legacies that we create will not be of conflict and controversy but service for some purpose greater than ourselves. While many are mourning the death of the rapper Notorious B.I.G., no tributes are being paid on radio stations to the four little girls who died on the school van in New York on their way to the Allen Christian School. Nobody wants

to see a young life taken prematurely but let us use these tragic moments as a chance to evaluate our own lifestyles and to commit ourselves to something more than being gangsta's, thugs and disrespecting ourselves and each other. Finally, as youth we need to be aware that tomorrow is not promised to anyone. While we are young we assume, hope and pray that we will live long lives into our 70's, 80's and 90's. The senseless death of 24 year old Biggie Small reminds us that we never know when our time will come

Even as young people it is vitally important for us to get our relationships with God in order. It is one thing to go to church because your parents make you, and you have no choice. It is another thing to rest in the comfort of having your own personal relationship with God. Don't be hesitant because you think that religion is for parents and adults. Let this tragedy serve as a wake-up call to all of the Hip-Hop generation to think seriously about our own personal faith journeys and to get right with God.

Mount Zion Baptist church introduces "The 21 Club"

NEWARK, N.J.—The 21 Club, an outreach program to the youth of Newark by the First Mount Zion Baptist Church, as part of its Reneging Court Adoption Program, will be holding a drug rally on March 19, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. in the recreation room located at 216 South Street.

The special guest speaker at the rally will be Ms. Bertice Berry, host of USA Live on the USA Network. Ms. Berry is an award winning lecturer, Ph.D. of Sociology and author. Ms. Berry is also an accomplished singer and has starred in The Little Black Girl Who Did, a musical play adaptation of her book, "Straight From The Ghetto".

The Executive Director, Dr. L. Ronald Durham, says, "The sole purpose of the 21 Club is to educate our youth about the pitfalls of addiction." All youth under the age of 21 are welcome to join the "Club" on March 19. Members are required to sign a contract with their parents or guardians, which stipulates that they accept the challenge to abstain from all illegal drugs and alcohol, at least until their 21st birthday.

Only those who adhere to the rules as set forth in the contract shall be permitted to participate in the "Club's"

many planned activities. Events to entertain the exclusive membership, and to build a lasting support network with other youth groups are also being formulated. Professional athletes and prominent business people from diverse backgrounds will be invited each month to address this elite group of young people, as well as their parents, and to bring encouragement by building the self-esteem of the group.

Parents are asked to bring their children and to stay for the two hour meeting if at all possible. The 21 Club contract rules will be explained at the opening meeting. Every meeting ends with refreshments and games.

Eating The Right Stuff—American Heart Association Offers Healthful Eating Tips For National Nutrition Month

Milburn, NJ.—Too much cholesterol in the blood can lead to heart disease—the nation's number one killer. Cardiovascular disease, such as heart disease, claims more American lives than cancer, AIDS, accidents, diabetes and suicide combined. Heart disease will account for more than 29,000 deaths in New Jersey during

Stress management for health and happiness

By Paul Lehrer, Ph.D. Director Center for Stress Management and Behavioral Medicine

Your probably know well what stress feels like. Your heart beats faster, and your muscles tighten. Your hands get cold and clammy, and you may get a headache. If it's an anger of frustration that triggers the attack, you feel like shouting and slamming doors, but from an experience you know that these serve only to increase the level of tension. When you try to control your emotions, however, you feel like you're about to explode.

Psychologists talk of mental stress as physical reaction caused by any situation that challenges the individual's ability to cope. This may be the loss of a job, the death of a loved one, an impending deadline at work or even being asked to do a difficult task problem under pressure.

Most stress reactions are brief and probably have little effect on a person's life. If you feel stressed out nearly every day, however, these reactions may eventually take a toll on the cardiovascular system. If you're the type of person who tends to feel irritated and pessimistic when the going gets rough, you are at risk of the negative emotional and physical con-

sequences of stress. To help reduce stress in your life consider these stress reducing tips: Try to keep things in perspective—be aware of labeling something a "catastrophe" although it may not be inconvenient or unpleasant.

Analyze your feelings. List your worries, fears, and body sensations. Have an explanation and plan a deliberate response for each.

Find an activity that helps you relax—whether it's yoga, exercise, watching TV, reading a book—and be sure to build that activity into your day, every day.

Prioritize your "to do" list by writing down your top ten in order of importance. Focus on accomplishing the first one or two goals, knowing that whatever is left undone is less important. Be sure that one of your top goals involves something that benefits your own health, happiness and well-being.

Take a breather: consciously take a couple of slow, deep breaths then see if you can look at the situation differently.

If you can't control your stress, alone, seek it out and seek appropriate help. For information on coping with stress, call the Center for Stress Management at (908) 937-8820/8505

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HACKENSACK—Chocolate Christian Singles is having an after work house gospel jam 7pm. For more information call (201) 342-6118.

EVERY SATURDAY
HACKENSACK—House Mix & Mingle, 6 pm. For info call (201) 342-6118.

EVERY SUNDAY
HACKENSACK—After Church House Get Together 4pm. Donation \$5.00. For information call (201) 342-6118.

MARCH 19TH THROUGH MARCH 23

NEW YORK—The Unbroken Chain Church celebrates 13 of ministry with special events at their new location in the heart of the garment district. For more information, call 212-736-3777.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
ELIZABETH—Monthly Leadership Seminar and Fellowship Dinner, Theme, "The Seminary as a Social Change Agent." All Unity Baptist Church. For more information, call 201-481-8650.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Symposium, "Caring Humanities: Hope for Survival" produced by the Monks' Conservancy, at the Time Life Building. For more information, call 212-643-5730.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

SOMERDALE—Dinner & Gospel Musical at Bethany Baptist Church. For more information, call 608-784-2220.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

NEW YORK—Easter Concert at the Unbroken Chain Church. For more information, call 212-736-3777.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Television Program, "Easter Celebration" at 8am on WBNC (Ch. 4).

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

CARTERET—Luncheon and Fashion by "Boucher," sponsored by the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, 12 Noon at the Holiday Inn. For more information, call 908-381-3584.

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MFUME: NAACP MUST ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWPORT NEWS (AP)—The head of the NAACP said the civil rights group must attract young people to its causes, which include gaining greater access to capital and credit for blacks.

Kweisi Mfume challenged the group's membership in a speech Saturday to a regional NAACP conference to become involved in more issues than simply registering new voters.

"We can't allow people just to box us into the civil rights corner, as if that's the only fight we have. All of our fights are tied together," said Mfume, president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"I want to be in front of every curve. In order to do that, we must get busy," he said.

To do so, Mfume said the NAACP must encourage young people to become active. He said when the NAACP leaders of today were children, it was the actions of adults that involved them in the civil rights movement.

"That only happens when you start to germinate that kind of vision," he said.

Mfume called access to credit and capital "the greatest impediment facing our people all across this country."

Capital formation is not taking place in African-American communities ... We don't become independent, enlightened and powerful into the next century by being dependent. We must find ways to spur capital formation."

Mfume, a former five-term congressman from Maryland, said the NAACP has made progress in improving its operations in the 13 months of his leadership. The group has wiped out its debt, gone on the Internet, and started a broadcast fax system to communicate with branches.

"We're building on a future. We're not looking back anymore," Mfume said.

City News Religious Directory

Trinity and St. Phillips Cathedral

Church Services:
Weekdays:
Sun. 8 & 10 a.m.
24 Rector St.,
Newark, NJ
07102
201-622-3505
Rev. Petero A.M. Sabune

Tabernacle Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
925 Ridgewood Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902
908-455-4063
Pastor Leo H. Graham

Abundant Life Family Worship Center

Church Services:
Sun. 8 - 11 a.m.
45 Hampton St., Metuchen, NJ 08840
908-545-3897
Rev. Ronald L. Owens

Imani Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 11:00 a.m.
428 Central Ave., East Orange, NJ 07033
201-476-7222
Rev. Moses Alexander Knott, Jr.

Faith Tabernacle Church

Church Services:
Weekdays - Fri. 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
1037 Frank Street, Roselle NJ 07068
201-757-6358
Bishop Herbert L. Bright

Book examines old controversy: Jefferson and Sally Hemings

By Ian Zack
Daily Progress

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.—Did Thomas Jefferson spend the last 38 years of his life in a romantic relationship with his slave Sally Hemings?

A generation of modern historians have weighed in on the subject and most have dismissed the long-rumored affair as salacious gossip, a political brickbat or the pathetic fantasy of the Hemings family.

But a soon-to-be-released book by a Harvard-educated professor examines the evidence and concludes that it supports the liaison far more than scholars have been willing to admit.

In the book, "Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy," Annette Gordon-Reed accuses noted Jefferson biographers of

hending over backwards to refute a charge they didn't want to believe.

"I don't think we can ever think about the Jefferson-Hemings controversy in the same way again," Peter S. Onuf, chairman of University of Virginia's history department and an expert on the Jeffersonian era, said of the book. "It has demystified that whole notion that 'authorities say it couldn't have happened.' I think we can discount that from now on."

The allegation that Jefferson, following the death of his wife Martha, fathered up to seven children with Miss Hemings was first made in 1802, during Jefferson's first term as president, by journalist James Callender.

Miss Hemings was the daughter of Jefferson's father-in-law John Wayles and the slave Elizabeth Hemings, making Sally the half sister of Jefferson's wife.

Jefferson's contemporary de-

fenders denounced Callender as a tool of the Federalist Party, which despised Jefferson. Callender, they said, was out for revenge at being rebuffed in his request to Jefferson for a patronage job.

The controversy over Callender's allegation died down for more than a century but was rekindled in 1974 when historian Fawn Brodie published a Jefferson biography that was vilified by many scholars for its contention that the story of the affair probably was true.

Historians have cited a number of reasons for believing the story false. Jefferson's family denied it, saying that one of his two nephews, Samuel or Peter Carr, was the father of Hemings' children.

Ms. Gordon-Reed, a professor at New York Law School, decided to examine the evidence for the Jefferson-Hemings relationship in early 1995,

following the torrent of negative publicity surrounding the film, "Jefferson in Paris."

The movie was lambasted for historical inaccuracy, including, much to the dismay of some commentators, the strong suggestion that Jefferson began an affair with a teen-age Sally Hemings while he was the American minister to France.

"I started seeing articles and stories by people that I thought were really derogatory to black people," said Ms. Gordon-Reed, who is black. "They said, 'Jefferson would never be involved in a romantic relationship with a slave girl.' As if you could know that."

One of the strongest pieces of circumstantial evidence for the affair, she writes, is the undisputed fact that Sally Hemings and all four of her children who lived to adulthood went free, being among the lucky few of

Jefferson's 130 slaves and the only complete nuclear family to do so.

Among the new evidence Ms. Gordon-Reed adds to the debate: all of the Hemings children were given names from the Jefferson-Randolph family line.

Ms. Gordon-Reed spends much of her book sifting through the evidence in the manner of a trial lawyer. Andrew Burstein, a historian taken to task by Ms. Gordon-Reed, said he still believes that Jefferson was not involved with Miss Hemings.

Ms. Gordon-Reed is "a provocative writer and a very talented writer," said Burstein, an assistant professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa. "The book is thorough and in many places strong enough to shake the staunchest defender of Jefferson's honor."

"On the other hand, the author's training as a lawyer is very apparent

because we know that lawyers don't always expose the truth. They often obscure it by introducing so many variables, all of which seem plausible, yet in the end we may be no closer to the truth," Burstein said.

For Burstein, the evidence is inconclusive.

"I'm becoming an endangered species, a Jefferson scholar that accepts the traditional notion that maybe a large number of Virginia slave owners did go to bed with their slaves, but that maybe Jefferson was not one of them," he said.

Ms. Gordon-Reed responded: "I don't know that I can convince people. For a lot of people, this is not about evidence, it's about what they need psychically."

"I believe that this is probably true and I have a feeling that over the years, barring any major new find, it will be accepted as true."

Souljah's remarks

Continued from page 1

woman will be the "reflection of what their mothers are and what their mothers are not." She also suggested that the poor conditions of the education system are contributing to the problem as well.

"I think that if we take a look at the educational system in our communities, we will pretty much understand why we have so many empty-headed brothers and sisters," she said, "and if we look at the parents who are also miseducated we'll pretty much understand why we have so many uneducated families."

Souljah also explained that many organizations, while wanting persons to get politically involved, do not present to them what they need to get along in life. Because they are lacking in this area, individuals will seek out their basic needs elsewhere, while being active politically. As a result those organizations will tend to have contradictions in the attitudes of their members, particularly regarding the relationship between men and women. "If you don't get the question of men and women correct...then it will be difficult for that organization to sustain itself."

"An organization may call itself 'revolutionary,' but you may still have brothers in the organization who feel they can be both revolutionary and sexist, who feel they can be both revolutionary and uncommitted, who feel they can be revolutionary but only be attracted sexually and sensually to women who aren't revolutionary," added Souljah.

Souljah, who currently works with a subsidiary of Bud Boy Entertainment, said that there is not a clear definition of what womanhood is. Because women "are trying to model themselves after Erica Kane and Joan Collins," the music being produced by today's artists puts women in an unflattering light.

Souljah pointed out that sexually-explicit lyrics are nothing new, citing Teddy Pendergast.

She also said that where the drumbeats of the past used to say "We are at war," the beats in today's music seem to say "We are sick, and we need help."

Adeigbola agreed. "Sisters need to understand that feminism is not just being able to do what men do," she said. It is the power that we have in making choices."

With that, she also said the issue of sexuality with today's environment, needs to be addressed early on with young girls, as far too many of women today use it as a source of power, often their only source. "You don't have to just give yourself," she pointed out.

"You don't have to wear bikinis on television in order to get people to notice you...You have a brain that works and that allows you to make choices...that thinks so you can sit down and say 'Okay, this is what I want, and this is not what I want.' You don't have to use your sexuality as a way of getting things," said Adeigbola.

The discussion progressed to one discussing the criminal justice system and it was pointed out that the rate of women's prison are now growing at a faster rate than men's. Souljah looked at it in a larger picture, one that is an attack on African culture by American culture. Most importantly, no one is exempt from being assaulted by that element, and prison is just one weapon.

"You can be as well-educated as Martin Luther King and get assassinated, revolutionary as Malcolm X, and get assassinated, you can just be completely entertainment and get assassinated, like Tupac and Biggie (Smalls), or you can be a middle-class, nice guy who goes to school and tries to mind his business and get assassinated like Eamie Cosby," she noted. "We have to be concerned about it because ultimately every man that dies leads to the destruction of the family."

"The society that we live in now is built on competition and selfishness," Adeigbola said. "The number of women in the prison system is rising at an exorbitant rate, and these are our mothers, our daughters and our sisters...and what happens to our children? This is nothing to play with because we are losing ourselves." She pointed out that many women are going to jail for doing things in order to survive.

She remembered a poem about a

woman who survived and sent her daughter to boarding school by selling crack. "This is what our society is causing us to do to make it by any means necessary," she said. "If you have a little sister or a little cousin, it is your job to take them by the hand and to say, 'Look, this is not going to be easy.'"

The questions and comments of the audience members focused primarily how and where the black community can work to affect change.

New Brunswick resident James D. Harris touched on economic exploitation. Holding degrees on economics and black studies, Harris has done research on the progress of African-Americans since the Civil War. He has found that 45 percent of African-Americans are born into poverty, the unemployment rate among African-Americans is double that of whites, African-Americans own less than 1 percent, and other indications that progress is either slow or nonexistent. He also

noted Lil' Kim, Foxy Brown and Rutgers President Francis Lawrence with his 1994 remark about African-Americans being "genetically inferior" were probably "doing us a favor" by showing "the growth of our psyche."

Tanya Copprue, a teacher, commented that she had been unsuccessful organizing parents around this issue.

In response Souljah, who has organized support groups and programs in the past, advised her to

organize her students and that will attract the parents.

Audience member Sharlamar Douglass said that the work black women need to do is no easy road, but it is a road that must be taken to help black men understand women's needs to be respected, while rejecting negative and offensive images. "Don't give up. It can happen, and those sisters who want it will eventually win," she said. "But there's a way that we have to bring them in."



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